

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01504 050952Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050956Z 064546 /15

O 050935Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3540
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1504

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, LE, IS, SY
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. WE ARE SENDING ADDRESSEES SEPARATELY A RATHER
LONG ANALYTICAL PIECE ON SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON
WHICH HAS BEEN IN WORKS FOR SOME TIME AND WHICH WE
HAVE TO KEEP REVISING DAILY AS SITUATION ON GROUND
CHANGES. FOLLOWING IS ATTEMPT PUT EVERYTHING INTO
FOCUS VERY BRIEFLY.

2. LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FORCES, PERHAPS PRODDED BY
ISRAELIS, EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO PUSH THROUGH
CONSOLIDATION THEIR SECURITY ZONE ALONG SOUTHERN
BORDER IMMEDIATELY AFTER SACKING OF FORMER ARMY
COMMANDER HANNA SAID. LAST WEEK THEY TOOK TAIBEH AND
SECRET

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THREATENED THE CHAIN OF VILLAGES PARALLELING ISRAELI BORDER
JUST WEST OF METULLA. THEIR APPARENT INTENT WAS
TO GET IT ALL SEWED UP BEFORE NEW ARMY COMMANDER
WAS ABLE, OR FORCED, TO INTERFERE.

3. SYRIANS AND FATAH, WHO HAD BEEN QUIESCENT IN AREA,
HAVE APPARENTLY REACTED BY HELPING LEFTISTS RETAKE

TAIBEH (AS OF THIS WRITING IT ALLEGEDLY BACK IN LCF HANDS),
SYRIANS REPORTEDLY SHELLING MARJAYUN AND GIVING ARTILLERY
SUPPORT TO PALESTINIANS FOR FIRST TIME.

4. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE LOCAL AGITATION ON SUBJECT,
AND MANY RUMORS, SUCH AS THAT OF AIN JALOUT BRIGADE HAVING
RETURNED, WHICH ARE CONFUSING PICTURE. (IRANIAN AMBASSADOR
HAS JUST COME IN TO REPORT YARMOUK BRIGADE IN NABATIYEH.)
QUESTION FOR US IS, HAVE SYRIANS DECIDED THAT TAIBEH
(WHICH CONTROLS WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THAT AREA) IS
RED LINE FOR LCF? OR DO THEY HAVE SOME NEW ACTION
PLAN FOR AREA? BELIEVE ANSWER LIES IN DAMASCUS, NOT HERE.
PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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